

of them belonged to the great human family. All of us have been wounded by those losses, although we may not realize it. We are all related to one another—and the King of Jordan brought that home to us in a powerful way.

The time has come for the human family to celebrate its unity, its diversity, its tremendous gifts, its abilities in many fields, its infinite capacities for compassion and creativity. Although this is an age of terrible tragedies and immense sufferings, it is also an age of unprecedented strides in many areas.

I believe we should consider "A Day of Celebration for Humanity"—an annual festival to remind us of the marvelous capacities of human beings.

There are many acts of kindness, many outpourings of love and devotion, many works of art emerging from the minds and souls of those who share the DNA molecules that make us human.

Let us salute one another, let us bow down as the King of Jordan did to comfort the afflicted ones among us, let us blow horns around the world, let us dance and be grateful for all the blessings we have, for the hopes we have, for the signs of love we can see everywhere if we open our eyes.

In the midst of our celebration, we will not forget that we have to help one another, care for one another, extend our hands to those who need food and shelter and encouragement. We will take everyone into the circle of humanity—and leave no one out.

Each year—perhaps on New Year's Day—there should be a 24-hour, worldwide remembrance of the achievements of people around the Earth. The resources of the Information Age are available now to bring together all of us in that commemoration.

Artists, musicians, film producers, writers, dancers, singers and composers, sculptors and painters, television and radio communicators, could be asked to give their services for a "Festival of the Human Family."

It could be organized by a Committee for Humanity, formed by representatives of the arts and sciences. Jacques Cousteau, the oceanographer; Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist; King Hussein of Jordan; and Maya Angelou, the poet, might be asked to serve as honorary chairpersons.

The committee could include leaders from all countries represented at the United Nations, journalists and educators from every continent, legislators and judges, business executives, presidents of trade unions, philosophers and members of all religions, children of all ages, women from many backgrounds, and Nobel Prize winners. Its headquarters might be in Geneva, where many international organizations have offices.

On the day of celebration, the creative attainments and highest qualities of compassion and courage demonstrated by human beings would be presented in global broadcasts—perhaps with introductory statements by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, visionary film producers, and Arthur Clarke, author of "2001," on their hopes for humanity in the coming century.

On that day, the noblest aspirations of human beings would be hailed. The finest works of the human spirit would shine around the world. The day would be an occasion of renewed confidence for every human person on this planet—every member of the huge family which now includes millions of mysterious beings. It would depict the crises through which humanity has passed in its epic journey from the seas to the stars. All the peaks of human experience would be recognized and acclaimed.

The day might end with the singing of the "Ode to Joy" which concludes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with choirs from every

nation, with voices being heard from every part of the beautiful planet on which humanity arose.

Such a day could give us new ways of seeing that Thomas Merton was right when he said: "It is a glorious destiny to be a human being."

We were created with divine sparks that cannot be extinguished. We were shaped by a mind which gave us a sense of belonging to the universe. With the creative power shared with us by that loving mind, we can find the ways out of our tremendous problems and overcome the dangers that beset us in this time of testing.

In his inaugural address in January of this year, President Clinton urged us to remember that the greatest progress we have yet to make is in the human heart. He referred to Martin Luther King's high dream of human equality and he declared: "King's dream was the American dream. His quest is our quest."

King's vision was more than an American vision. It was a vision for the whole human family. It is time to revive that vision—and to join with people everywhere to show what can be done by the members of that awesome stream of people moving forward together.

I urge the U.S. Congress to adopt a non-partisan resolution calling for "A Day of Celebration" and urging legislators and other leaders of all nations to join Americans in making that day a worldwide day for human unity. I urge the president and the executives of all countries to give their support to that proposal.

The time has come to take a giant step for humanity!

AUTHORIZING A CALIFORNIA URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL RE- SEARCH CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to authorize the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to establish a California Urban Environmental Research and Education Center [CUEREC].

I am honored to be joined in this effort by nine California colleagues: Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TORRES, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. FILNER.

Legislation to authorize EPA research programs was unfortunately not acted upon in the last Congress. However, CUEREC did receive a line item in the 1995 Department of VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill to cover start-up costs. This line item has allowed CUEREC to begin its first year of operation and the Center was dedicated on October 21, 1994 at a tree planting ceremony on the Cal State Hayward campus.

The bill requests \$4.5 million for fiscal year 1998 because CUEREC is mandated to work with all 22 California State Universities in its second year of operation and because CUEREC will need this level of support to carry out the activities set out for it in the legislation.

Currently, CUEREC is in the process of linking California's major university system—the Cal State University [CSU] campuses, the University of California [UC] campuses, as well as private universities and colleges—to deal with the employment and environmental challenges

of California's military base closures and defense conversion. Among other activities CUEREC will: help remove market barriers for small environmental business enterprise development; help in military base conversion and utilization focused on increasing sustainable economic development and job creation throughout California; encourage the transfer of government developed and/or sponsored environmental technology to the private sector while working closely with such laboratories as Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and Lawrence-Berkeley; encourage the funding of viable environmental projects throughout California; assist women and minority owned small businesses in complying with local, state, and federal environmental regulations and taking advantage of opportunities in sustainable economic development; avoid duplication in environmental research and education programs by developing an on-line data base of such activities available to all California universities and colleges; help coordinate Cal State and UC environmental applied research and education programs; and advise local, state, and federal officials on the economic and environmental implications of development programs throughout California.

Prior to CUEREC, no EPA sponsored research center had been established in California. Seventeen such EPA sponsored research centers have already been established in other states. CUEREC would be the first to focus on urban environmental policy, base closures, and defense conversion environmental problems. CUEREC would also be the first to include all of the universities and colleges in a single state.

Both Senators were very supportive of the legislation last year. CUEREC is a unique program, providing many important benefits for California and a cost effective model university based program for the nation and I urge my California colleagues to support it.

WOMEN'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, next year, women's high school basketball in the Sixth District of North Carolina should be extremely interesting. The reason being that two of the State champions from this year will play in the same conference. Ledford High School, located just outside Thomasville, NC, and High Point Central High School in High Point, NC, secured the championships in the 2-A and 3-A divisions of the State playoffs respectively.

The end of March brought the State 2-A season to a close. Ledford High School, in an impressive victory over St. Pauls, captured the State 2-A championship. This is only the second championship victory in the school's history.

After an impressive 29-2 season, the Ledford Panthers faced the Saint Pauls Bulldogs (28-2) in the season finale. Both teams were anxious to take home the victory and the game proved to be a challenge for all those involved. Head coach John Ralls, with the assistance of Joe Davis and Allen Patterson led the Panthers to a 59-57 come-from-behind